



Proclamation

WHEREAS,

Juvenile arson is a serious crime that can affect all people and can only be stopped when citizens realize the physical and emotional damage suffered by arson victims; and

WHEREAS,

juvenile arson and youth-set fires result in over 300 deaths and 2,000 injuries annually and \$300 million in property damage and more than 40,000 incidents annually; and

WHEREAS,

over one-half of the arsons in the country are caused by juveniles and young children. If people can become more informed along with communities providing intervention and treatment programs for juvenile firesetters, strides can be made in this very preventable malfeasance; and

WHEREAS,

the price that America pays for youth-set fires is extreme. Most of the lives lost are those of the very children setting the fires. In addition to the cost of the damaged property, there is the cost to the community of the increasing resources needed to fight the problem; and

WHEREAS,

the support and promotion of National Arson Awareness Week will honor all that is best within humanity by focusing our collective efforts on a community solution.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, Governor of the state of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim May 2-8, 2004, as

ARSON AWARENESS WEEK

in the state of Louisiana, and encourage all citizens to learn more about the tremendous toll arson takes on our community and our nation, and to commit themselves to prevention efforts.



*Attest By
The Governor*

*Joseph S. Keithen
Secretary of State*

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set
my hand officially and caused to be affixed the
Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the
Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this
the 21th day of April
A.D., 2004.*

*Kathleen Babineaux Blanco
Governor of Louisiana*